



USDA-NASS

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
Hay Stocks
Meat Animals PDI
Milk PDI
Poultry PDI
Ag Prices

May 1 Crop Production and Hay Stocks

Based on May 1 conditions, **Montana winter wheat** producers are expecting a yield of 41 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's final yield. If realized, the total production of 84.1 million bushels would be up 26 percent from last year's 66.8 million bushels due to higher harvested acreage. In the fall of 2004, Montana producers seeded 2.15 million acres of winter wheat, up 250,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 2.05 million acres, up 420,000 acres from last year.

As of May 8th, Montana's winter wheat crop was rated significantly better than a year ago with 1% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, and 9% excellent compared with 15% very poor, 26% poor, 39% fair, 17% good, and 3% excellent a

year ago. The mild spring conditions in April helped the winter wheat break dormancy ahead of normal. The moisture received this spring has been beneficial for crop development as 3 percent of the acreage has reached the boot stage compared with the normal of 1 percent. Concerns over low temperatures at the end of April into May as well as reports of infestations of Russian wheat aphids, brown mites, and army cutworms could impact yield potential and harvested acreage.

On May 1, Montana **hay** producers had an estimated 860,000 tons of hay on hand, 70,000 tons more than they had on hand a year ago. Hay production for 2004 was 4.8 million tons, 3 percent larger than the 2003 crop. Disappearance from December 2004 to May 1, 2005 totaled 3.57 million tons, up 12 percent from the same period a year earlier.

United States winter wheat production is forecast at 1.59 billion bushels, up 6 percent from 2004. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.4 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last season.

Hard Red production is up 18 percent

from a year ago to 1.01 billion bushels. Soft Red is down 21 percent and totals 302 million bushels. White production totals 283 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 31.2 million bushels are Hard White and 251 million bushels are Soft White. This is the first year that production levels for Hard White and Soft White are available; therefore, there are no previous year comparisons.

All hay stored in the United States on farms May 1, 2005 totaled 27.7 million tons, up 7 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2004 - May 1, 2005, totaled 86.6 million tons, 2 percent greater than the disappearance of 85.1 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Twenty-six of the 48 reporting States had higher hay stocks than a year ago. Many of the States reporting an increase in stocks were located in the northern Great Plains and the central Corn Belt. The increase in hay stocks from May 2004 in some areas can be attributed to higher hay production during 2004, mild winter conditions, and sufficient early season pasture growth, reducing the need for supplemental feeding.

Winter Wheat: Acreage, Yield, & Production, by Selected States & U.S. 2004 & Forecast May 1, 2005

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	1,700	2,450	27.0	35.0	45,900	85,750
ID	700	730	90.0	90.0	63,000	65,700
KS	8,500	9,600	37.0	44.0	314,500	422,400
MT	1,630	2,050	41.0	41.0	66,830	84,050
NE	1,650	1,700	37.0	45.0	61,050	76,500
OK	4,700	4,300	35.0	34.0	164,500	146,200
OR	780	840	61.0	55.0	47,580	46,200
SD	1,250	1,400	45.0	45.0	56,250	63,000
TX	3,500	3,500	31.0	30.0	108,500	105,000
US	34,462	35,069	43.5	45.4	1,499,434	1,590,862

2004 Meat Animals Production Disposition and Income

Cash receipts from the 2004 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled \$1.2 billion, up 15 percent from 2003. This is the second straight year that the cash receipts from the marketing of cattle, sheep, and hogs has exceeded one billion dollars for the State. Cash receipts for all three livestock classes were up from the previous year due to higher prices received.

Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves during 2004 were up 15 percent from 2003 to a new record high of \$1.1 billion. This is the first time that cattle and calf cash receipts have exceeded one billion dollars. The previous record high was in 2000 when cash receipts totaled \$967.5 million. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.32 million head, were down 1 percent from 2003. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased 7 percent from the previous year to 285,000 head. The average price received in 2004 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs increased \$8.80 per cwt to \$91.00 per cwt. Season average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased \$19.00 per cwt to \$125.00 per cwt. The January 1, 2005 value of cattle and calf inventory was \$2.5 billion, up 11 percent from 2004.

Cash receipts from the sale of hogs in Montana jumped 29 percent from 2003 to \$38.8 million. Marketings of hogs and pigs dropped 8 percent from the previous year to 317,500 head. The average prices received for hogs increased \$12.60 from 2003 to \$52.30 per cwt. The value of the hog and pig inventory on December 1, 2004 was \$18.2 million, up 55 percent from last year.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts in Montana were up 4 percent from the previous year to \$23.3 million. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2004 were 48,000 and 194,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were up 6,000 head from last year, but lamb marketings were down 24,000 head. The average price for lambs rose \$9.00 to \$112.00 per cwt and sheep were \$4.70 above last year at \$39.50 per cwt. The January 1, 2005 sheep and lamb inventory value was \$39.7 million, up 10 percent from 2004.

In the U.S., the 2004 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs totaled \$62.6 billion, up 11 percent from 2003. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 5 percent, hogs and pigs increased 35 percent, and sheep and lambs increased 3 percent.

Total 2004 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 11 percent to \$62.2 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production decreased for all cattle and calves and sheep and lambs, but increased for hogs and pigs. Average prices were up for all three species.

Cash receipts in the United States from the marketings of cattle and calves increased from \$45.1 billion in 2003 to \$47.3 billion in 2004, a 5 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 53.8 billion pounds in 2004, down 5 percent from 2003. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was \$85.90, an increase of \$6.20 from 2003. For calves, the annual average price increased \$17.00 to \$119.00.

U.S. cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled \$14.3 billion during 2004, up 35 percent from 2003. Marketings totaled 27.8 billion pounds in 2004, up 2 percent from 2003. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased from \$37.20 in 2003 to \$49.30 in 2004.

Cash receipts in the United States from the marketings of sheep and lambs in 2004 were \$521 million, up 3 percent from 2003. Marketings decreased 6 percent to 572 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep increased from \$34.90 in 2003 to \$38.80 in 2004, while for lambs, the annual average price increased from \$94.40 to \$101.00.

2004 Milk Production, Disposition and Income

Montana's dairies produced 347 million pounds of milk in 2004, up slightly from 2003. There was an average of 18,000 milk cows on farms and ranches during the year, unchanged from the previous year. The average number of pounds produced per cow in 2004 was 19,278 pounds, 111 pounds more than 2003.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were \$53.2 million dollars, up 26 percent from 2003. Producers received an average of \$15.50 per cwt, an increase of \$3.10 per cwt from last year. Total marketings of milk, at 343 million pounds, were up 1 percent from a year ago. A total of 4 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 2 million pounds of which were fed to calves and 2 million pounds consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production increased 0.2 percent in 2004 to 170.8 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 18,957 pounds, was 197 pounds above 2003. The

annual average number of milk cows on farms, at 9.01 million head, was 73,000 head less than 2003.

U.S. cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2004 totaled \$27.4 billion, 29 percent above 2003. Producer returns averaged \$16.13 per cwt, 29 percent above 2003. Marketings totaled 170 billion pounds, 0.2 percent above 2003. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.11 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1.3 percent less than 2003. Calves were fed 87 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

2004 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's value of egg production in 2004 was \$5.9 million, up 1 percent from last year. Egg production in 2004 totaled 107 million eggs, unchanged from the previous year. The average price for eggs was \$0.657 per dozen, up slightly from 2003.

For the United States, the combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2004, was \$28.9 billion, up 24 percent from the \$23.3 billion in 2003. Of the combined total, 71 percent was from broilers, 18 percent from eggs, 11 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2004 was \$20.4 billion, up 34 percent from 2003. The total number of broilers produced in 2004 was 8.74 billion, up 3 percent from 2003. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2004 was 45.8 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2003. The 2004 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 44.6 cents per pound, compared with 34.6 cents in 2003.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2004 was \$58.0 million, up 21 percent from the \$47.8 million a year ago. Prices averaged 5.8 cents per pound, compared with 4.9 cents in 2003. The number of chickens sold in 2004 totaled 192 million, up 1 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

Value of all egg production in 2004 was \$5.30 billion, down 1 percent from the \$5.33 billion in 2003. Egg production totaled 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 87.5 billion eggs produced in 2003. In 2004, all eggs averaged 71.4 cents per dozen, compared with 73.2 cents in 2003.

Agricultural Prices Received for March 2005

March 2005 full month crop prices were mixed when compared with the previous month. When comparing March 2005 prices with February 2005, winter wheat was \$3.34 per bushel, down \$0.05; the spring wheat price decreased \$0.05 to \$3.72 per bushel; but the durum wheat price increased \$0.18 to \$3.94 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose \$0.05 to \$1.66 per bushel, and malt barley prices increased \$0.07 to \$3.20 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay dropped \$1.00 to \$75.00 per ton and all other hay decreased \$2.00 to \$67.00 per ton. Mid-April grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat at \$3.43 per bushel; spring wheat was \$3.54 per bushel; durum wheat was \$4.00 per bushel; feed barley was \$1.65 per bushel; and malt barley was \$3.30 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mixed when compared with the previous month. March 2005 price comparisons with February 2005 are as follows: the steer and heifer price increased \$1.00 to \$107.00 per cwt; cows increased \$3.10 per cwt to \$57.50; calves were up \$4.00 to \$131.00 per cwt; sheep prices were down \$0.50 to \$52.40 per cwt; lamb prices dropped \$7.00 to \$125.00 per cwt; and milk decreased \$1.30 to \$14.70 per cwt. The mid-April steer and heifer price was \$106.00 per cwt; cows were \$58.60 per cwt; calves were \$132.00 per cwt; and milk prices were \$15.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.32, up \$0.05; spring wheat was \$3.51, up \$0.01; durum wheat was \$3.67, down \$0.04; the all barley price was \$2.46, up \$0.09; steer and heifer prices were \$95.50, up \$2.20 per cwt; beef cattle were \$91.30, up \$2.30 per cwt; calves were \$135.00, up \$7.00 per cwt;

sheep were \$48.20, down \$3.10; lambs were \$114.00, unchanged from February and all milk was \$15.60, up \$0.10 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was \$3.12 per bushel; spring wheat was \$3.41 per bushel; durum wheat was \$3.66 per bushel; all wheat was \$3.27 per bushel; malt barley was \$2.80 per bushel; and feed barley was \$1.76 per bushel. The steer and heifer price was \$95.60 per cwt; cow prices were \$57.10 per cwt; all beef cattle were \$91.60 per cwt; calves were \$139.00 per cwt; all hog prices were \$50.20 per cwt; and all egg prices were \$0.469 per dozen.

The preliminary April All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers, at 120, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point (0.8 percent) above the March Index, but down 5 points (4.0 percent) from April 2004.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	March 2004	April 2004	March 2005	April 2005
Prices Received	121	125	119	120
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	132	133	139	140
Ratio 2/	92	94	86	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana		U.S.		Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		March 2004	February 2005	March 2005	March 2005	February 2005	March 2004	April 15, 2005	April 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.39	3.14	3.32	-0.05	-0.31	3.43	3.12
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.11	3.76	3.94	3.67	+0.18	-0.17	4.00	3.66
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.97	3.77	3.72	3.51	-0.05	-0.25	3.54	3.41
All Wheat	Bu.	3.89	3.61	3.57	3.41	-0.04	-0.32	3.54	3.27
Barley, All	Bu.	3.00	2.77	2.72	2.46	-0.05	-0.28	2.79	2.48
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.15	1.61	1.66	1.68	+0.05	-0.49	1.65	1.76
Malt Barley	Bu.	NA	3.13	3.20	2.74	+0.07	NA	3.30	2.80
Oats	Bu.	1.63	NA	NA	1.74	NA	NA	NA	1.57
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	74.00	76.00	96.40	+2.00	+3.00	75.00	103.00
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	66.00	69.00	70.40	+3.00	+4.00	67.00	75.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	71.00	72.00	74.00	89.10	+2.00	+3.00	73.00	96.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	96.00	106.00	107.00	95.50	+1.00	+11.00	106.00	95.60
Cows	Cwt	48.60	54.40	57.50	55.00	+3.10	+8.90	58.60	57.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	86.00	93.60	89.70	91.30	-3.90	+3.70	87.00	91.60
Calves	Cwt	114.00	127.00	131.00	135.00	+4.00	+17.00	132.00	139.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	32.90	52.90	52.40	48.20	-0.50	+19.50	NA	NA
Lambs 2/	Cwt	121.00	132.00	125.00	114.00	-7.00	+4.00	NA	NA
All Milk	Cwt	13.60	16.00	14.70	15.60	-1.30	+1.10	15.70	15.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

U.S. Agricultural Trade 1/, Fiscal Years, Calendar Years, Year-to-date, and Current Month

	Fiscal years 2/				Fiscal year-to-date		March
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	2005
	Billion dollars						
Agricultural exports	52.698	53.291	55.987	62.297	34.571	32.943	5.504
Agricultural imports 3/	39.027	40.954	45.686	52.701	25.814	28.474	5.306
Trade balance 4/	13.671	12.338	10.301	9.596	8.757	4.468	0.198
	Calendar years				Calendar year-to-date		March
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	2005
	Billion dollars						
Agricultural exports	53.659	53.115	59.364	61.309	16.236	15.597	5.504
Agricultural imports 3/	39.366	41.909	47.376	54.019	13.156	14.498	5.306
Trade balance 4/	14.293	11.205	11.988	7.290	3.081	1.099	0.198
<p>1/ USDA defines agriculture to include: live animals, meat, and products of livestock, poultry, and dairy; hides and skins (but not leather products); animal fats and greases; food and feed grains and grain products; oilseeds and oilseed products; fruits, nuts, and vegetables and products of these; juices, wine, and malt beverages (not distilled spirits); essential oils; planting seeds; raw cotton, wool, and other fibers (not manufactured products of these); unmanufactured tobacco (not manufactured tobacco products); sugar and sugar products; coffee, cocoa, tea, and products of these; rubber and allied products; and stock for nurseries and greenhouses, spices, and crude or natural drugs. Fish, shellfish, and forestry products are not included in "agriculture."</p> <p>2/ October 1 of previous year through September 30 of current year.</p> <p>3/ Customs value.</p> <p>4/ Exports minus imports.</p> <p>Data are not seasonally adjusted.</p> <p>Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, using data summed from the Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.</p>							

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Cattle & Beef Cow County
Milk Production	Estimates
Ag Chemical Use	Egg Production
Cattle on Feed	
Red Meat Production	

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